"THE PORTHOLE"

FEBRUARY 4, 1945

U.S.S. DETROIT:-

THE ULITHI, OR MACKENZIE ISLANDS, IS LATITUDE 1Ø DEGREES NORTH, LONGITUDE 14Ø DEGREES EAST, ARE THE LARGEST ATOLLS IN THE WESTERN CAROLINES. THE EASTERN ATOLL IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE BUT THE WESTERN ONE, 19 MILES LONG, NORTH AND SOUTH, PROVIDES SEVERAL GOOD ANCHORAGES. OF THE THIRTY SMALL ISLANDS THAT COMPOSE IT, THE LARGEST ARE FASSARAI, ASOR AND MOGMOG, AND ONLY FASSARAI IS MORE THAN A MILE LONG. THE NATIVE INHABITANTS ARE KANAKAS.

ONE ISLAND HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES FOR OFFICERS AND MEN AND WE EXPECT TO SEND ENOUGH PARTIES DURING OUR VISIT TO PERMIT ALL HANDS TO GET ASHORE.

OUR FORCES SEIZED THE ISLANDS IN SEPTEMBER 1944.

UNDATED PACIFIC WAR:-

AMERICAN ADVANCES ON ALL LUZON FRONTS WITH ONE YANK FORCE ONLY 18 AIR MILES FROM MANILAS NORTHERN CITY LIMITS WERE REPORTED BY GENERAL MACARTHUR LATE THURSDAY. ON THE NORTHEAST FRONT, THE AMERICANS PUSHED AHEAD 32 MILES TO CAPTURE CABANATUAN, SANTA ROSA AND GAPAN WHILE STRONG MOTORIZED FORCES PENETRATED TO SABANG. GENERAL MACARTHUR SAID "THIS GIVES US DOMINATION OF ALL MAJOR ROADS AND RAILROADS IN THE CENTRAL PLAINS AND TOTALLY SEVERS JAPANS TROOPS ON NORTH AND SOUTH LUZON." ON THE FRONT APPROACHING MANILA, THE YANKS WERE NEARING MALOLOS, A ROAD AND RAIL CENTER. BLOCKS ON THE MAIN ROAD IN THE UMINGAN SECTOR GAVE THE AMERICANS COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE HIGHWAY IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PLAIN. HEAVY FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF UMINGAN. FROM THE OLONGAPO NAVAL BASE THE YANKS PUSHED SIX MILES ACROSS THE MOUTH OF BATAAN PENINSULA. JAPANESE RESISTANCE WAS LIGHT. IN BATANGAS PROVINCE THE AMERICANS SECURED THEIR NEW BEACHHEAD, TOOK AN AIR FIELD AND PRESSED INLAND NINE MILES FROM NASUGBU. MANY SMALL JAPANESE SHIPS WERE DESTROYED WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED A RAID ON THE BEACHHEAD. ONE JAPANESE DESTROYER WAS SUNK AND TWO SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BY MEDIUM BOMBERS OFF NORTHERN LUZON.

JAPANESE LOSSES ON LEYTE AND NEARBY ISLANDS WERE BOOSTED TO MORE THAN 131,ØØØ AS MACARTHUR REPORTED THE KILLING OF AN ADDITIONAL 929 NIPPON TROOPS IN FURTHER MOPPING UP OPERATIONS.

YANK FLIERS HEAVILY HIT THE CAVITE NAVAL BASE AND BOMBED BAGUIO AND CAMP JOHN HAY IN THAT CITY.

WITH AMERICAN FORCES CLOSING IN ON MANILA FROM THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH, THE JAPS ACKNOWLEDGED THURSDAY THAT THE WAR SITUATION ON LUZON ISLAND HAS TAKEN A FURTHER SERIOUS TURN. A TOKYO BROADCAST TO GERMANY NOTED THAT JAPANS LUZON FORCES HAVE NOT YET APPEARED FOR A FIGHT AND ADDED "WHEN AND WHERE THE TROOPS UNDER GENERAL YAMASHITA TAKE THEIR STAND AND LAUNCH COUNTER OPERATIONS IS NOT YET KNOWN."

THE SAME THING WAS PUZZLING AMERICAN LT. GEN. ROBERT EICHELBERGER. HE ASKED "WHERE IN THE HELL ARE THEY GOING TO FIGHT?" HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE JAPANESE RAN OUT WHEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO PUT UP REAL SCRAPS ON MINDORO ISLAND, LINGAYEN GULF AND OTHER WESTERN

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UNDATED PACIFIC WAR CONT:-
LUZON POINTS.

RADIO TOKYO REPORTED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT A SINGLE SUPERFORTRESS BOMBED OSAKA BUT MADE THE USUAL CLAIM OF NO DAMAGE.

IN WASHINGTON THE U.S. NAVY DEPARTMENT REPORTED THE SINKING OF TEN JAPANESE TANKERS, TRANSPORTS AND CARGO SHIPS BY AMERICAN SUBMARINES. THIS BOOSTED TO 989 THE TOTAL BAG OF THE SUBS SINCE THE START OF THE WAR, INCLUDING 104 COMBATANT CRAFT.

THE JAPANESE CAMPAIGN IN CHINA TO DRIVE AMERICAN AIR-POWER INTO THE WESTERN HINTERLANDS BORE ADDITIONAL FRUIT AS THE U.S. 14TH AIRFORCE ANNOUNCED DESTRUCTION AND ABANDONMENT OF ITS SUICHWAN BASE IN KIANGSI PROVINCE, ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN HANKOW AND HONGKONG. A CHINESE ARMY SPOKESMAN DENIED JAPANESE CLAIMS THAT THE INVADERS NOW CONTROL ALL OF THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY. HE SAID FIGHTING CONTINUES AT SEVERAL POINTS ALONG THE LINE AND ALSO IN THE COASTAL SECTOR BETWEEN HONGKONG AND SWATOW.

IN CENTRAL BURMA THE JAPANESE, MAKING A LAST DITCH STAND BEFORE MANDALAY, WERE REPULSED AS THEY COUNTERATTACKED. BRITISH INDIAN TROOPS MADE AN UNOPPOSED LANDING ON SAGU KYUN ISLAND OFF BURMAS WEST COAST SOUTHEAST OF AKYAB. SAGU KYUN IS OFF SOUTHERN RAMREE ISLAND WHERE BRITISH AMPHIBIOUS FORCES RECENTLY LANDED.

ALSDORF, GERMANY:-

THE TABLES HAVE BEEN TURNED IN THIS COAL MINING TOWN WHERE BUT FIVE THOUSAND INHABITANTS REMAIN OF A NORMAL POPULATION OF NINETEEN THOUSAND. SOME 150 POLISH, YUGOSLAV, CZECH AND RUSSIAN WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHOM THE NAZIS SENT HERE TO WORK UNDER HUMILIATING CONDITIONS, HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE BEST HOMES OF ALSDORF BY THE DISPLACED PERSONS SECTION OF THE U.S. ARMY UNDER CAPT. RALPH HILL OF READING, PENN. THESE HOUSES HAVE BEEN REPAIRED, FURNITURE ASSEMBLED FROM UNUSABLE HOMES, EVEN RADIOS INSTALLED IN SOME CASES AND EVERY COMFORT POSSIBLE UNDER WAR FRONT CONDITIONS PROVIDED. THE GERMANS RETURNING TO THEIR HOME TOWN AFTER A SHELLING WHICH LEFT BUT FEW BUILDINGS INTACT, MUST CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH WHAT IS LEFT, IN SOME CASES HOVELS PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED BY THE NAZIS TO THE FORCED FOREIGN LABOR. (TUFF!)

LONDON:-

CAPTURE OF THE TOWN OF SOLDIN, HIGHWAY AND RAILWAY JUNCTION THIRTY SIX MILES SOUTHEAST OF THE PORT OF STETTIN AND FIFTY EIGHT MILES NORTHEAST OF BERLIN, WAS ANNOUNCED FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE SOVIET COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST FROM MOSCOW. THE SEIZURE OF DROSSEN, 14 MILES NORTHEAST OF FRANKFURT ON THE ODER AND 51 MILES FROM BERLIN, ALSO WAS ANNOUNCED. THE GERMANS MEANWHILE SAID THE RUSSIANS WERE ATTACKING THE FORTRESS OF KUSTRIN, FORTY MILES NORTHEAST OF BERLIN AND INDICATED THAT OTHER RED ARMY UNITS HAD CROSSED THE ODER RIVER 38 MILES EAST OF THE BARRICADED REICH CAPITAL, PARTLY AFLAME FROM TWO QUICK RAF BLOWS. LATE GERMAN BROADCASTS SAID THE KUSTRIN GARRISON WAS AT GRIPS WITH THE ENEMY AT CLOSE BUT THE GERMANS STILL HOLD THE TOWN. MOSCOW DISPATCHES SAID

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